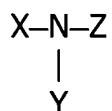


What is claimed is:

1. A method for treating or preventing acne comprising applying to skin affected by, or susceptible to, acne, a composition containing:

a) an effective amount of an alkanolamine of the formula



wherein X, Y and Z are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, C₁-C₃ alkyl groups, C₂-C₄ alkanol group, wherein at least one of X, Y, or Z is a C₂-C₄ alkanol group bearing at least one hydroxyl group and optionally at least one carboxyl group;

b) tyrosine; and

c) an effective amount of a sulfur ingredient selected from the group consisting of lipoic acid, glutathione, sulfur, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol, a combination of sulfur and resorcinol monoacetate, sulfacetamide, and mixtures thereof.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein composition contains from about 0.1% to about 10% by weight alkanolamine, from about 0.01% to about 6% tyrosine, and from about 0.5% to about 15% sulfur ingredient.

3. A method according to claim 1 wherein the alkanolamine is selected from the group consisting of ethylaminoethanol, methylaminoethanol, dimethylaminoethanol, isopropanolamine, triethanolamine, isopropanoldimethylamine, ethylethanolamine, 2-butanolamine, choline, serine, and mixtures thereof, and the sulfur ingredient is lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.

4. A method according to claim 3 wherein the alkanolamine is dimethylaminoethanol.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein the composition contains from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.03% to about 5% by weight tyrosine, and from about 1% to about 10% by weight lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the composition contains from about 1% to about 3% by weight dimethylaminoethanol, from about 0.2% to about 0.5% tyrosine, and from about 2% to about 10% lipoic acid, glutathione, or a mixture of lipoic acid and glutathione.
7. A method according to claim 1 wherein a conventional acne medication containing an effective amount of an active anti-acne ingredient selected from the group consisting of an acid, an alcohol, a retinoid, a peroxide, and an antibiotic, is also applied to affected skin areas.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas following administration of the alkanolamine composition.
9. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is salicylic acid.

10. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is tretinoin.
11. A method according to claim 8 wherein the active ingredient in the conventional acne medication is benzoyl peroxide.
12. A method according to claim 7 wherein the conventional medication is applied to affected skin areas before administration of the alkanolamine composition.
13. A method according to claim 1 wherein the composition further comprises at least one adjunct ingredient selected from the group consisting an α -hydroxy acid, a fatty acid ester of ascorbic acid, and mixtures of any of these.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises glycolic acid.
15. A method according to claim 13 wherein the composition comprises ascorbyl palmitate.